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The Advisor

Official Weekly Command Information Report for the Multi-National Security Transition Command - Iraq



Are the ISF
trained
and ready?

MNSTC-I Commander
continues to assess
capabilities of the
Iraqi Security Forces

June 11, 2005

MNSTC-I

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Cover: Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 4th Iraqi Army Division conduct a tactical marksmanship exercise at their base camp in Al Miqdadiyah June 4.

Photo by U.S. Army Capt. Larry George

Project pays tribute to fallen servicemembers

By Steven Donald Smith

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – A nationwide project is under way to pay lasting tribute to fallen servicemembers in their hometowns.

The "Statues of Servicemen" campaign is an effort to immortalize every American servicemember killed in the war on terrorism by creating a bronze statue of their likeness.

The statues will be placed in the hometowns of the fallen servicemembers.

"These statues will be placed in city and town halls and government buildings throughout the United States to memorialize the brave men and women who have given their lives in the war on terror," said Sam Patterson, national SOS project director.

The organization began in March 2004 as "Survivors of Servicemen," with the goal of bringing attention to the trauma inflicted on the families of those killed, and to highlight the financial distress faced by many military families.

The group began selling "Wear Camo" wristbands to raise money for families who lost loved ones. The wristbands were so successful that they decided to use the proceeds to fund the statue campaign, Patterson said.

The first statue was unveiled in Shelbyville, Tenn., on April 22 with the bust of Marine Corps Pfc. Daniel McClenney. He was killed on June 24, 2004, when his unit was am-

bushed while patrolling Afghanistan's mountainous Konar province.

The ceremony took place at the Shelbyville Court House, where the Nashville Marine Corps Reserve unit provided a 21-gun salute, and McClenney was posthumously awarded the Silver Star.

McClenney's commanding officer, Lt. Col. Julian D. Alford, presented the medal to McClenney's father, Randy McClenney.

"His life was lived as an example of decency, and his death a costly price for freedom," Alford said. "His fellow Marines continue to feel his absence, and they will never be the same. But they are more committed to the causes of liberty."

"This medal means so much to me," Randy McClenney said. "It's something I can look at every day and think of my son."

Regarding the statue, Randy McClenney said, "I am sure my son would have been deeply touched by your gift to his family and the city of Shelbyville."

The second statue, this one depicting Marine Capt. Brent Morel, was unveiled May 21 in Memphis, Tenn.

Morel was killed April 7, 2004, when insurgents ambushed his platoon while they escorted a convoy in Iraq's Anbar province. He was awarded the Navy Cross and is nominated for the Medal of Honor.

"I know that what he was doing was noble and right. It was what he had been trained to do and something he chose to do," said Brent's father, Mike Morel.

"All great things are simple, and many can be expressed in single words: freedom, justice, honor, duty, mercy, hope."

Sir Winston Churchill (1874-1965)

Iraqi Security Force training is commander's priority

By U.S. Army Capt. Larry George

MNSTC-I Public Affairs

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Most critical queries in reference to the war in Iraq always seem to work their way back to the main question – what is the timetable for pulling Coalition troops from Iraq?

Numerous U.S. officials, to include President George W. Bush, have stated as soon as possible. And as soon as possible depends in large measure upon the Iraqis capability to fight the battle against the insurgency and provide security for their country. That is exactly the priority tasking for the Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq and U.S. Army Lt. Gen. David H. Petraeus, commanding general.

Petraeus routinely travels throughout Iraq to personally check on all aspects of the organization, equipping, training and mentoring of Iraqi Security Forces. A day-long trip June 4 was just another example of the commanding general's continued assessment of ISF's progress in securing conditions for Iraq's future.

The day's first stop was to visit the 2nd Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 4th Iraqi Army Division in Al Miqdadiyah. The battalion's base camp is located in Diyala Province, approximately 30 miles northeast of the city of Ba'qubah and 40 miles west of the Iranian border.

Since Petraeus' schedule had not allowed him the opportunity to visit the Iraqi base for the last six months, he was immediately impressed with the progress made at the camp. "You have come a long way since I was here last time," Petraeus told the Iraqi and Coalition leadership, as he shook hands with Iraqi troops ready for inspection. He instantly made reference to the building that housed the unit's operations center and noted how pleased he was with



Soldiers from the mechanized platoon, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 4th Iraqi Army Division secure suspected terrorists captured from a building during a training exercise at their Al Miqdadiyah base camp June 4.

Photo by U.S. Army Capt. Larry George

the facility and the Iraqi staff.

The Iraqi battalion leadership conducted a short briefing that concentrated on the recent operations the unit had conducted. They updated the commander on recent mission successes to include numbers of weekly patrols, and captured terrorists and caches.



The leadership of the 2nd Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 4th Iraqi Army Division provide a briefing to U.S. Army Lt. Gen. David H. Petraeus and other officials at their base camp in Al Miqdadiyah June 4.

Photo by U.S. Army Capt. Larry George

The Iraqi battalion commander briefed two specific operations in detail which included an Iraqi planned and executed mission that synchronized four separate strikes simultaneously to counter insurgent communications. He stated that the swift action of the mission resulted in the capture of 14 suspected insurgents and gave laudable credit to the cooperation of the local sheiks.

"We are trying to increase the confidence of the local people to work with the Iraqi Army," stated the 2nd Battalion commander through an interpreter. "We will continue operations based on intelligence and local cooperation."

Although Petraeus was pleased by the content of the briefings, he was more encouraged by the sound training program and the Iraqi battalion's initiative in the organization of the battalion.

"You should be very proud of what you have accomplished," said Petraeus. He noted that the leadership's creation of special mission forces, information gathering and mechanized platoons were impressive undertakings. Petraeus also noted his appreciation to the Iraqi Sergeant Major for the concentrated development of the battalion's noncommissioned officer corps.

"The 2/2 has done a great job in emphasizing the importance of the NCO," said U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Felix Nobles, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Battalion. The unit has been training with their Iraqi counterpart battalion since January and has seen a marked improvement, he added.

The Iraqi battalion conducted live fire marksmanship and mechanized platoon training exercises before the commander departed to the next stop of the day. Before boarding the helicopter, Petraeus provided some guidance to the

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ISF training

From Page 3

Iraqi and Coalition leadership and again reinforced the great efforts that have been accomplished.



U.S. Army Lt. Gen. David H. Petraeus observes Iraqi police marksmanship training at Camp Kalsu June 4.

Photo by U.S. Army Capt. Larry George

The next stop was at Camp Kalsu, approximately 45 miles south of Baghdad. Petraeus stepped off the helicopter and was immediately met by officials to include Police Chief Qais of Babil Province. Qais is highly respected and admired by both Coalition and Iraqi leaders as one of Iraq's most inspirational and successful police leaders.

Many have stated that under his leadership, the Hillah Police Academy and other police schools in the area have maintained a high standard of training due to his management and determination. The academy, which is run solely by Iraqi instructors, hosts a basic police training course designed to prepare recruits with basic fundamentals necessary to begin policing responsibilities.

Without hesitation, Petraeus stepped forward onto the range to observe a marksmanship exercise and closely monitored the tactical and shooting abilities of the students. He carefully examined the two-man team's ability to move, shoot and communicate as they maneuvered through a series of downrange targets.

"That was an excellent display of tactical and weapons proficiency," said Petraeus as he addressed approximately 50 students and cadre. "Although this is the first time I have seen this squadron, you were very impressive."



Emergency Response Unit students conduct marksmanship training at Camp Dublin as U.S. Army Lt. Gen. David H. Petraeus looks on.

Photo by U.S. Army Capt. Larry George

Cadre, both Iraqi and Coalition trainers, working with the Iraqi police squadron at the camp are very impressed with the marked improvement in training the last six

months. "The combination of training, repetitive operations and the great leadership of (Iraqi) Col. Salam have made a huge difference," said U.S. Army Master Sgt. Dale Wiggins, a Coalition adviser from Baltimore, Md.



Iraqi Emergency Response Unit members perform a hostage rescue training exercise at Camp Dublin June 4.

Photo by U.S. Army Capt. Larry George

The final leg of the trip was near Baghdad International Airport to observe an Iraqi Special Operations Force demonstration and special police training at Camp Dublin.

An ISOF unit conducted a live-fire training mission when they entered and cleared an anti-Iraq force occupied building with a quick ground assault strike scenario. ISOF units are among the most specialized combat forces in the Iraqi Army and are experts in conducting operations that do not call for conventional military operations.

Recruiting for this elite force has dramatically increased in the past six months and has in fact doubled during that time period.

At Camp Dublin, Iraqi police officers conducted a series of specialty training exercises to demonstrate weapons and tactical proficiency. Practical exercises and demonstrations included marksmanship, building clearing, hostage rescue and motorcade escort drills.

Again, training officials noted a remarkable change in both the recruitment and training during the past six months. "The esprit de corps, discipline and willingness to deploy anywhere has been the most noteworthy success for the Iraqis," said a Coalition training official. Adviser identities have been retained for operational security reasons.



U.S. Army Lt. Gen. David H. Petraeus addresses Emergency Response Unit members during a training exercise at Camp Dublin June 4.

Photo by U.S. Army Capt. Larry George

Petraeus summed up the day as he spoke to a group of Emergency Response Unit members by stating, "Your respect, determination and loyalty to Iraq" are the critical factors in establishing long-term security and freedom for the Iraqi people."

Operation Lightning strikes at enemy operations

By U.S. Army Sgt. Lorie Jewell

MNSTC-I Public Affairs

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Operation Lightning, an Iraqi-led effort to confront and take down the enemy, is having a significant impact in curtailing the number of attacks on Iraqi and Coalition forces, officials said.

The operation, coordinated jointly by the Ministries of Defense and Interior, kicked off May 22. It is being conducted across the Baghdad area by seven Iraqi Army battalions, nine Special Police battalions, and five U.S. brigades.

Results to date show a 38 percent reduction in the number of vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices detonating and a 23 percent increase in the number of VBIEDs discovered before exploding, reports state. There has also been a 10 percent reduction in IED detonations and an 18 percent reduction in the number of coordinated or complex attacks against Iraqi and Coalition forces.

The improvements are a result of coordinated efforts between Iraqi Security and Coalition forces, which included 61 raids and 251 cordon and search operations that led to the detainment of 992 suspected insurgents and the discovery of 45 weapons caches, according to reports.

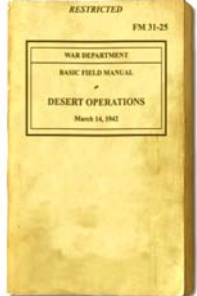
Iraqi Army units conducted 30 patrols, five cordon and search operations and one raid in a 24-hour period June 7, officials noted. Iraqi Police completed 68 patrols and set up 24 traffic control points from June 6-7, they added.

Other notable successes include:

- A June 8 cordon and search of a home in the Kharkh Peninsula led to the arrest of a suspected insurgent and the discovery of chemicals, a picture of Saddam Hussein, \$6,750 in U.S. currency and 2,000,000 Iraqi Dinar. The 92nd Chemical Company confirmed the chemicals could be used to make explosives. The cordon and search was conducted by Iraqi Police and the U.S. 4th Brigade Combat Team.
- Iraqi Army soldiers from the 'Wolf Brigade' detained 50 terror suspects June 7, including one target in two separate combat operations conducted in Mechemics and Al Sadiya in south Baghdad, and Jamia in central Baghdad.
- During the two days of operations June 6-7, joint forces conducted 11 cordon and searches, detained six suspected insurgents and discovered a cache with IED-making materials, AK-47s, and AK-47 ammunition. The search also produced intelligence for future operations. The operations were conducted by the 1st and 3rd Battalions, 2nd Brigade, Public Order Division; the Baghdad Police; and Coalition forces.


- Soldiers from the 1-64 Armored Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team captured six terror suspects June 6, including one targeted individual in the Al Jadida and Amin districts of east Baghdad.
- Acting on a tip by the factory owner, U.S. Soldiers with the 1-9 FA, 2 BCT Soldiers discovered and removed 1,000 sub-munitions and 56,000 fuses used to make explosives from a factory in North Zafaraniya June 6.
- From June 2-6, operations in South Baghdad by 2/10th MTN along with the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Battalions, 1st Brigade of the Iraqi Intervention Force; 1st and 2nd Battalions, 4th Public Order Brigade and 2nd Battalion, 2nd Police Commandos conducted 42 raids, 56 cordon and searches, and 116 traffic control points. Forces detained 366 suspected insurgents, including 12 foreign fighters.
- A platoon from 1/1/9 (Tank) Iraqi Mechanized Division arrested a suspected insurgent on a high-value target list at a traffic control check point June 5. The insurgent was identified as a member of the Al Tawhid Al Jihad, an IED cell working out of Tarmiya, and the brother of the cell's leader.

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The enemy regularly changes his tactics.

Do you?



0008 IEDs KILL



A soldier of the 1st Battalion, 1st Brigade, 5th Iraqi Army Division helps secure a cordon area alongside American troops during a search operation near Taji, Iraq on May 30.

Photo by U.S. Army Spc. Matthew Wester

Lightning

From Page 5

- Iraqi Army and Coalition soldiers detained more than



A soldier of the 1st Battalion, 1st Brigade, 5th Iraqi Army Division uses a metal detector to find illegal munitions during a search operation near Taji, Iraq on May 30.

Photo by U.S. Army Spc. Matthew Wester

100 suspected terrorists in south Baghdad June 4. Working on intelligence reports and tips from locals, soldiers from the 3rd and 4th Brigades, 6th Iraqi Army Division and 1st Iraqi Intervention Force conducted raids and clearing missions, detaining 108 suspected terrorists.

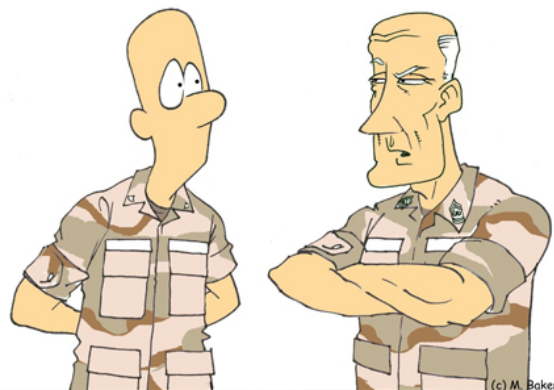
- Iraqi Commandos on patrols in South Baghdad received numerous tips from

locals leading to the capture of 108 detainees in a 24-hour period June 4.

- A June 3 raid by soldiers from the 1st BDE, 6th Iraqi Army Division in the Kharkh Peninsula netted five suspects and more than 30 artifacts looted from the Baghdad Museum in 2003.
- Iraqi Army Soldiers from the 1st Iraqi Intervention Force conducted a raid on the Mustafa Mosque (Sunni) in southern Mahmudiyah June 3, detaining five suspects and confiscating two AK-47s.
- Soldiers from the 1st Iraqi Intervention Force, 4th BDE, 6th Iraqi Army Division detained 12 suspected terrorists on June 3. A terrorist cell financier and a known informant were two of the detained.
- From May 29 to June 1, soldiers from the 1st Iraqi Army Brigade and 2nd Battalion, 156th Infantry Regiment captured 47 terror suspects, three of whom were terror cell leaders, six AK-47s and 500 rounds of ammunition. Some detainees provided sworn statements on terrorists in their neighborhoods.



WELL PRIVATE, AS YOU SAID: THAT IS SIMPLY YOUR HUMBLE OPINION, AND IT IS IN DIRECT CONFLICT WITH MY AUTHORITATIVE ONE.



Iraqi, Coalition operations hit enemy forces in Taji

By U.S. Army Spc. Matthew Wester
3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division Public Affairs

TAJI, Iraq – American Humvees take up positions on both sides of a dirt road two hours before dawn.

Iraqi soldiers stream out of a truck following the glow of their squad leader's chemical light and run in a column to search a house.

The palm grove across from the house is next. The troops are determined to scour the entire area for illegal munitions and terrorists.

Elements of 1st Battalion, 1st Brigade, 5th Iraqi Army Division; 1st Battalion, 13th Armor Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division; and 4th Platoon, 977th Military Police Company cordoned and searched a rural area near Taji on May 28 and 30.

The Military Police and Company A set the cordon, effectively sealing the neighborhood from vehicle traffic.

"This operation is significant because it places emphasis on the Iraqi Army protecting Iraqi people from terrorists who want the new Iraqi government to fail," said U.S. Army Col. David Bishop, 3-1 commander. "It demonstrates that their government is taking action to solve a problem that affects them."

The searches in Taji are part of a larger Iraqi Army effort, dubbed Operation Lightning ("Al-Barkh"), to disrupt the enemy's ability to attack the legitimately-elected government and innocent citizens of Iraq. The first few days of the operation have provided several good leads and resulted in several detainees and weapons confiscations, said military officials.

"The purpose of the operation was to search suspected locations where anti-Iraqi forces construct vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices or improvised explosive devices," said U.S. Army Capt. Charles Querriera, commander of Company B, 1-13 Armor Bn. "We are contributing to the larger effort of disrupting AIF operations."

Querriera said the Iraqi Army's ability to conduct autonomous operations has come a long way and they have started taking more responsibility in security operations.

"They're doing intelligence gathering on

their own...it was an initiative on the Iraqi Army's part to disrupt terrorist activity in Baghdad," said Querriera.

"It's a combined operation with the American forces," said the operations officer for 1st Bn., 1st Bde., 5th Iraqi Army Div. "Now we control this area and will follow the terrorists wherever they are."

"We're trying to incorporate the Iraqi Army into our operations so they can get experience in conducting these operations," said U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Michael D. Schnurr, a tank commander for 1-13 and a Johnstown, Pa., native.

"The Iraqi Army is building trust with the Iraqi people," he said. "They're getting out there and experiencing the security techniques and measures they need to take back this country."

Iraqi citizens showed their trust in the Iraqi Soldiers by supplying them intelligence about the activities of terrorists in the area.

"We have some local sources who deal with us because they refuse to have the terrorists here," the Iraqi operations officer said. "They are cooperating with the Iraqi Army to get rid of and eliminate the terrorists."

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A soldier with the 1st Battalion, 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Division, Iraqi Army gains entry to a house to search for illegal munitions during an operation near Taji, Iraq on May 30. Elements of 1st Battalion, 13th Armor Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division worked with the Iraqi troops to gather intelligence and search for weapons and insurgents in the area.

Photo by U.S. Army Spc. Matthew Wester



A soldier with the 1st Battalion, 1st Brigade, 5th Iraqi Army Division provides perimeter security in the rural areas north of Baghdad. Iraqi Army soldiers searched residences and fields during Operation Lightning, in coordination with 1st Battalion, 13th Armor Regiment, 3rd Brigade 1st U.S. Armored Division.

Photo by U.S. Army Spc. Kevin Bromley

Although no weapons were found or detainees taken during the operation, valuable information was gathered which can be used in the future.

"After the operation we were able, through the Iraqi Army, to gather intelligence on other suspects and locations of other possible weapons caches," Querriera said. "The intelligence gathered will most likely lead to future search operations and I hope the Iraqi Army comes along."

The Soldiers of Company B would welcome that.

"My Soldiers and I enjoy working with the Iraqi Army," Querriera said. "They know when something isn't right before you do so they are our own early-warning system. Even my guys feel better having them with us."

(U.S. Army Sgt. Kevin Bromley, 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division Public Affairs Office, also contributed to this article)

Taji operations

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The local people are mostly farmers, and the combined force of Iraqi and U.S. military units searched the orchards, fields and groves in the area as well as the houses.

"It's a lot different than the city," said U.S. Army Sgt. Raymond Salgado from Carolina, Puerto Rico and an armored crewman for 1-13 Armor's B Company.

Salgado said the terrain is very different from the urban areas he has operated in and talked about how he had to jump over an irrigation ditch to search a suspicious haystack.

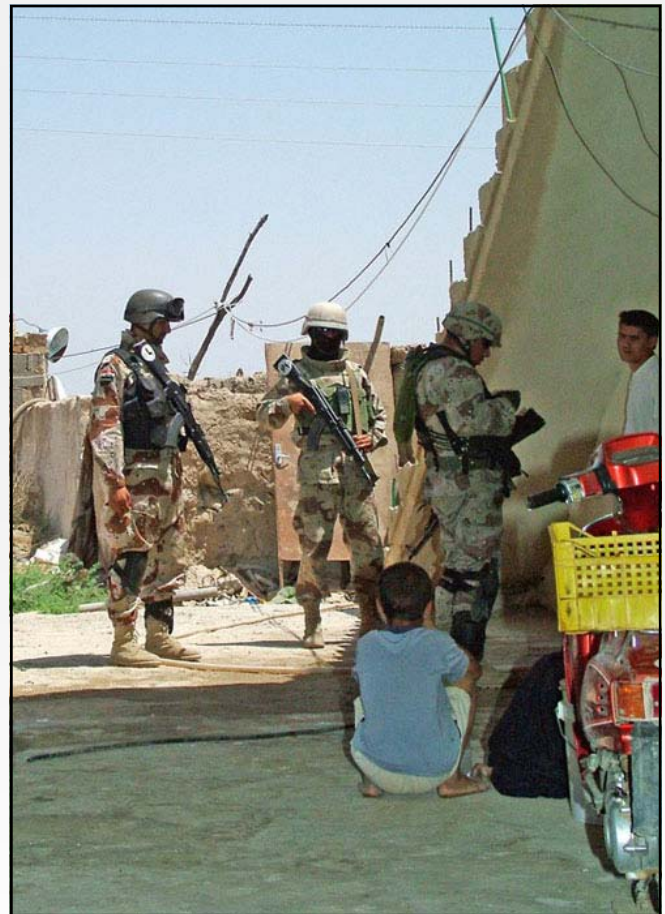
Querriera said there are advantages to working in these areas.

"With the help of aviation, it's easy to pick up people trying to get out of the search area," he said.

"This is the second time in Iraq for this unit. The first time, we were in more of an urban area," Schnurr said. "This is where tankers and infantry make their business, out here in the rural areas."

After a thorough search of the farms and fields, the Iraqi and American troops rallied back at the edges of the cordon area.

Curious children watched from the road as the Soldiers headed back to their vehicles in the mid-morning heat.



Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 1st Brigade, 5th Iraqi Army Division question residents in the rural areas north of Baghdad about terrorist activity in the area. Iraqi Army soldiers searched residences and fields during Operation Lightning, in coordination with 1st Battalion, 13th Armor Regiment, 3rd Brigade 1st U.S. Armored Division.

Photo by U.S. Army Spc. Kevin Bromley

Cavalry, Iraqi platoons grab suspected insurgents

By **U.S. Army Spc. Jerome Bishop**
27th Public Affairs Detachment

BALAD, Iraq — Growing numbers of improvised explosive devices being discovered and detonating on main supply route Tampa prompted an early morning raid May 31 by Coalition and Iraqi soldiers.

Tips from informants assisted with the raid, officials said.



A U.S. Soldier examines contraband recovered from a joint raid conducted by Iraqi and Coalition forces.

Photo by U.S. Army Spc. Jerome Bishop



Iraqi soldiers take charge of a suspected insurgent during a house raid. Increasing numbers of IEDs on main supply route Tampa led to the raids.

Photo by U.S. Army Spc. Jerome Bishop

"[Our Troop] was going after an IED cell operating in the Muhatta area, located at the intersection of MSR Tampa and Alternate Supply Route Army," said U.S. Army Capt. Joel Jackson, commander of Troop A, 5th Battalion, 7th U.S. Cavalry Regiment.

Jackson's soldiers joined with their counterparts from Company B, 203rd Iraqi Army Battalion, 3rd Brigade to storm three houses outside Logistical Support Area Anaconda, hoping to secure high value targets suspected of contributing to the IED problem on MSR Tampa.

"We went out looking for 10 guys," Jackson said. "We got seven of those guys and got four more that were collaborating with the guys we caught."

It took soldiers roughly an hour to get into each house, which turned up at least one suspect each. Soldiers also

found various contraband including multiple AK-47 magazines, excessive amounts of telephone wire, anti-Iraq forces documents and photographs, and a U.S.-issued M-9 (9mm Beretta Pistol).

"We take [all the evidence] in when we bring it to brigade, and label it according to where we found it," Jackson said. "The evidence follows the suspect (through the interrogation process)."

Intelligence leading to the raid came from a variety of sources. "You hope to have a multi-source intelligence, which is intelligence gathered from two or more people," said U.S. Army 1st Lt. Jeffrey Sacks, 2nd platoon leader. "Then the battalion puts together all the intelligence on the subject, and a platoon is given the responsibility to get the subject."

The raid itself has an effect on the Soldiers, Sacks said.

"Sometimes [the Soldiers] take a beating," he said. "The raid we just did, we had three targets and it's like a sport you have to keep that adrenaline pumping, and keep the blood flowing, but it's rewarding in the end when you catch the guys you were looking for."

Marines, ISF keep up appearances in Ramadi

By U.S. Marine Corps Cpl. Tom Sloan

2nd Marine Division

AR RAMADI, Iraq – A group of Iraqi children playing soccer in the street here halt their game to welcome a formation of Marines and Iraqi Security Forces as they patrol through their neighborhood.

One of the smiling youngsters high fives Lance Cpl. Juan-Luis Valdes, and several men, who are gathered on the sidewalk, greet the ISF in their native tongue. The locals' acknowledgments are friendly.

According to Valdes, a machine gunner with 1st Squad, 2nd Platoon, Company C, 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, the city's residents are reacting well to seeing Marines and ISF operating hand-in-hand.

"It lets them know their own people are out here and not just Americans," said the 22-year-old from Houston. "I think it's helping us make progress with the people."

Company C Marines routinely bring a squad of ISF with them when they conduct patrols in their area of operations, according to 2nd Lt. Austin P. Adams, the platoon commander for 2nd Platoon.

"Our intent is to have a positive influence on the people in our AO by letting them see the Marines and ISF working together," he said.

The combined patrol's mission was to discern the messages a mosque was broadcasting over its loudspeakers during mid-day prayer.

"We've heard anti-American messages from other mosques in the area," explained Valdez, a 2002 graduate of Marine Military Academy, Harlingen, Texas. "We want to see if this one is doing the same."

The Marines and their ISF counterparts patrolled through



An Iraqi Security Force member walks past an Iraqi man and two boys riding a bicycle during a mission.

Photo by U.S. Marine Corps Cpl. Tom Sloan

several neighborhoods on their way to the mosque, greeting locals along the way. Though Valdes isn't fluent in Arabic, he said he knows

a prayer from an anti-American message.

"I can tell because when they're singing like this it's normal prayer," he said as the Dhuhr Muslim prayer started up and sounded over the holy building's loudspeakers, echoing through the street he and his comrades were patrolling. "It gets suspicious when they start talking. They sound mad, and I can sometimes make out words like bomb and America. It sounds a lot different from plain worship songs."

As soon as the prayer started, the Marines and ISF ran to a house a few blocks from the mosque and used it as a temporary surveillance position while the speaker broadcasted the prayers.

Adams and the unit's interpreter positioned themselves next to one of the building's windows to better hear the message. Within minutes of the prayers start, it went from humble singing to angry shouting.

The interpreter recorded the message to be taken back to the unit.

"He's asking for the insurgents to have victory over their enemy, which is us," said Adams, a 23-year-old from Arcadia, Calif. "We're not going to detain the speaker because that's part of their freedom. They can say what they want about Americans, but they can't take up arms against us. That's the beauty of democracy."

The Marines waited until the prayer ended and then patrolled back to their base, Camp Snake Pit, without incident.

"The prayer turned out bad, but we expected that," said Valdes. "We'll know to keep our eyes and ears open when patrolling now."



U.S. Marine Corps Cpl. Lance Juan-Luis Valdes and members of the Iraqi Security Forces leave a home during a mission.

Photo by U.S. Marine Corps Cpl. Tom Sloan

Task Force Liberty and Iraqi Army conduct air assault mission

By U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Peter K. Towse

42nd Infantry Division Public Affairs

AL MUKHISA, Iraq — Soldiers by the hundreds surrounded the town of Al Mukhisa recently, tightening their grip on anti-Iraq forces living there. One by one, helicopters landed and armored vehicles moved in during the largest air assault mission since the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom III.

“Our intent was to capture insurgents that have been operating in this area,” said U.S. Army Lt. Col. Roger Cloutier, commander of the 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, Task Force Liberty. “We are here to prevent them from becoming a coherent, organized force.”

Children in tattered clothes and dirt on their faces lined the streets as Bradley fighting vehicles rumbled through the town. A little girl, no more than 5 years old, stood barefoot in the dirt as attack helicopters patrol the skies, the pink bow in her hair faded and torn.

“Elements from my battalion and the 205th Iraqi Army Battalion led the air assault,” Cloutier said. “The ground assault was led by 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor Regiment and a scout platoon from the 205th Iraqi Army Battalion. We also had close air support from the Air Force.”

Coalition forces and Iraqi Army soldiers conducted searches of houses looking for illegal weapons, explosives, anti-Coalition propaganda and any information that could lead them to the insurgents. As they walked from door to door, they passed out candy and smiled at the children.

Cloutier came with a clear message: help us, or help the terrorists. A large group of local townspeople gathered to hear what he had to say.

“We are here to build you schools, we are here to build you hospitals and we are here to make sure your water is clean,” Cloutier said, holding out his hand. “We cannot do these things if you continue to harbor terrorists.”

As he spoke, Bradley fighting vehicles rolled past the group. A U.S. Air Force F-15 fighter jet did a fly-by of the area and all sound was drowned out from the jet engine roaring past.

As he turned to leave, fear and doubt could be seen on some the faces in the crowd.

“The local population appears reticent in cities that have a lot of insurgent activity,” Cloutier said. “They are afraid because if they are seen talking with Coalition forces, they, or their families will be targeted by terrorists after we leave.”

Soldiers started to pull back and walk toward the edge of town, continuing to pass out pamphlets and handshakes as the children smiled and waved.

“A Soldier in Iraq has to be ready to fight one second and then transition to handing out leaflets, passing out candy, or just helping the local population,” Cloutier said. “It is a challenge and we ask a lot from our Soldiers and I think they are doing a great job.”



A young child peers from a doorway at a U.S. Soldier during a joint air assault mission with Iraqi Army soldiers.

Photo by U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Peter Towse

An Iraqi civilian steps forward with information about insurgents. He is quiet and nervous, but compelled by the freedom Coalition forces are providing.

“We came here expecting to fight,” Cloutier said. “Anti-Iraq forces chose not to do that today and there was cooperation today from the local population. Many suspected insurgents were detained. Four of the 44 that we detained were on our high-valued individuals list.”

As Coalition forces prepared to leave, Iraqi soldiers continued to search houses and check identification cards. There was a calm in the air as Iraqi civilians and Iraqi soldiers politely talk and cooperate with each other.

“My Soldiers and the Iraqi Army did phenomenally today,” Cloutier said. “They were motivated, disciplined and well-trained.”

Hugs and handshakes are exchanged as the Iraqi Army takes over the mission.

“This has been a particularly challenging mission,” said U.S. Army Col. Steven Salazar, 3rd Brigade Combat Team commander. “Our intent was to come in and disrupt the operations of the anti-Iraq forces. It is clear by this successful joint operation, that we have done this.”

“Third Brigade works with the Iraqi army every day,” he added. “As we conduct more and more operations in the future, they will continue to get better. The 205th Iraqi Army Battalion is the most proficient in Iraq.”

U.S. Army colonel remembered for dedication to a free Iraq

By U.S. Army Sgt. Lorie Jewell

MNSTC-I Public Affairs

BAGHDAD, Iraq – In the five months he served as a senior adviser with the Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq, U.S. Army Col. Ted Westhusing won the admiration of those around him with his intellect, integrity and selflessness.

Westhusing, 44, died June 5 of a non-combat related injury. More than 100 fellow Soldiers and colleagues gathered to remember him at a June 9 memorial service that included personal tributes, a last roll call and a 21-gun salute.

A display of Westhusing's helmet, boots, rifle and dog tags, nestled between the American and U.S. Army flags, faced the crowd.

As a senior adviser with MNSTC-I's Civilian Police Assistance Training Team, Westhusing headed its Counter Terrorism-Special Operations. He headed the efforts to train, equip and mentor Iraqi public order battalions, SWAT teams, emergency

response units and security details for high-level Iraqi officials.

His work was a critical part of Iraq's success in building its security forces, said U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Joseph Fil, CPATT commander. Fil recalled Westhusing as an officer who stood tall among his peers with an irrefutable character, serious mind and enormous talent.

"We have lost a superbly gifted Soldier," Fil said. "He served as a model to all."

Westhusing was also eulogized by three friends and colleagues, U.S. Army Lt. Col. Jim Hale, U.S. Army Marine Corps Col. Lee Yarberry and British Brig. Bryan Watters.

"We become what we glean from those we encounter," said Yarberry. "I know that I am a better person because I met Ted Westhusing."

Westhusing loved his family, often



U.S. Army Col. Ted Westhusing observed a demonstration by an emergency response unit in March (left). A memorial display paid tribute to his dedication to service (right).

Photos by U.S. Army Sgt. Lorie Jewell

commenting about the latest achievement of his children, Yarberry said.

Hale pointed out that Westhusing, a professor at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, volunteered to serve in Iraq. Westhusing graduated from West Point in 1983.

"He sincerely believed in an independent and free Iraq," Hale said.

Did you know?

Operation Catalyst is Australia's Defense contribution to the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Iraq.

Operation Catalyst commenced on 16 July 2003 following on from Operation Falconer. Working with the Interim Iraqi Government, the ADF continues to contribute to Multinational Force efforts to develop a secure and stable environment in Iraq and assist national recovery programs.

Operation Catalyst currently comprises approximately 1,370 Australian Defense Force personnel which includes the recent deployment of the Al Muthanna Task Force to southern Iraq.

The advance party of the Al Muthanna Task Group deployed in its Australian Light Armored Vehicles from a Coalition military base in the Middle East to its Iraq operating base, Camp Smitty, in the southern Iraq province of Al Muthanna April 24.

The advance party prepared for the arrival of the remainder of the AMTG, which deployed into the Middle East Area of Operations between mid-April and May.

The AMTG's mission is to provide security and support for the Japanese Iraq Reconstruction and Support Group and the Australian Army Training Team – Iraq, which will train parts of the Iraqi Army.

- Information provided by <http://www.defence.gov.au/army/>

Iraqi Security Forces / In Brief

Joint operations net IED, weapons cache
MOSUL – A tip from an Iraqi citizen led Iraqi and Coalition forces with the 1st Brigade, 25th Infantry Division (Stryker Brigade Combat Team) to a weapons cache and an improvised explosive device during operations in northern Iraq June 4 and 5.

Troops from 3rd Battalion, 3rd Brigade Iraqi Intervention Force seized a number of weapons from a suspicious vehicle while on patrol south of Mosul. The weapons were confiscated for future destruction.

An Iraqi civilian informed Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment of an IED emplaced in western Mosul today. The IED was defused with no injuries reported.

Troops from 1st Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 2nd Iraqi Army Division alongside 2nd Battalion, 8th Field Artillery Regiment seized a large weapons cache during a search operation south of Qayyarah. The cache included more than 100 mortar and rocket rounds, a number of fuses including thousands of feet of timed fuse, and several grenades. The

weapons were confiscated for future destruction.



A number of rockets and mortars were recovered during a joint operation by Iraqi and Coalition forces.
U.S. Army photo

Iraqi commander visits city leaders

BALAD RUZ – An Iraqi Army officer met with the mayor of Balad Ruz and other city leaders on June 1. The visit coincided with a weekly meeting at the Civil Military Operation Center between the Iraqi Army, Coalition forces and city personnel. The Iraqi officer, new to the position, works closely with city officials to serve the people of Balad Ruz. (Task Force Liberty Public Affairs)

Raid grabs two suspected terrorists

KIRKUK – Iraqi Security Forces led a combined raid that apprehended two suspected terrorists recently. Iraqi Army soldiers and the 2nd Battalion, 116th Armor Regiment discovered paperwork showing mortar firing positions, weapons, propaganda and a cell phone. Intense mission rehearsals preceded the raid and allowed for its success, officials said. (Task Force Liberty Public Affairs)

Program highlights security issues

KIRKUK – The Kirkuk Chief of Police appeared on “Kirkuk in the New Iraq” television program with Provincial Council members June 2. Topics discussed included suicide bombers, government issues and women’s roles in positions of authority, and the detainee release program. The

weekly program informs the population of important issues. (Task Force Liberty Public Affairs)

Iraqi Army units transfer authority

KIRKUSH – In an effort to strengthen the Iraqi Army’s ability to protect Iraq, two units exchanged boundary areas in a ceremony June 3. Company 4, 3rd Battalion, 1st Brigade, 5th Iraqi Army Division now occupies the area around forward operating base Daima Castle. A tactical operations center and quick reaction force will operate out of the base to work the traffic control points in the area. (Task Force Liberty Public Affairs)

Iraqi Army leaders visit Qazaniyah

QAZANIYAH – The 1st Iraqi Army Brigade commander and staff officers visited with the sheik of this village June 4. During the meeting, Iraqi soldiers handed out gifts to residents that were provided by families of 278th Regimental Combat Team Soldiers. Medical personnel also examined villagers during the visit. (Task Force Liberty Public Affairs)

Two terrorists dead following attack

MOSUL – Iraqi Security Forces and Multi-National Forces from 1st Brigade, 25th Infantry Division (Stryker Brigade Combat Team) killed two

terrorists, seized a large weapons cache, and detained six suspected terrorists during operations in northern Iraq June 5.

Iraqi Police killed two terrorists with small arms fire after the terrorists had attacked their compound with a rocket propelled grenade in Tal Afar. No ISF or civilian injuries were reported in the attack. Soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment seized a large weapons cache during a search operation in northeastern Mosul. The weapons and ammunition were confiscated for future destruction.

Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment detained six individuals suspected of terrorist activity during raids in western Mosul. Suspects are in custody, with no MNF injuries reported. (Task Force Freedom Public Affairs)

Iraqi police dismantle IED

NARHWAN – While conducting a patrol in Narhwan, Task Force 2-34 assisted the Iraqi police in dismantling an IED June 4. An informant brought the IED to the attention of the IP and it was discovered that three artillery rounds had been placed in the bushes near the road. The informant led the Scouts and the IP to the location of the IED. TF 2-34 Soldiers cordoned off the area while the IP dismantled the IED. (Task Force Liberty Public Affairs)

Iraqi Security Forces / In Brief

Iraqi, U.S. Soldiers detain 108 suspects

CAMP LIBERTY – Iraqi Army and Coalition Soldiers detained more than 100 suspected terrorists in south Baghdad June 4.

Working on intelligence reports and tips from locals, Soldiers from the 3rd and 4th brigades, 6th Iraqi Army Division and the 1st Iraqi Intervention Force conducted raids and clearing missions, detaining 108 suspected terrorists.

One of the detained is the leader of a known terror cell.

"The Iraqi Army has proven once again that they are capable of executing missions to find and destroy terrorists," said U.S. Army Maj. Web Wright, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division public affairs officer. "The number of tips received by the local populous shows that they have grown tired of terrorists living in their neighborhoods."

Anti-Iraq propaganda, fake passports and more than 50 weapons were also found in the searches. The detainees are being held for further questioning. (10th Mountain Division Public Affairs)

Iraqi Security Forces recover weapons

MOSUL – Iraqi Security Forces and Multi-National Forces from 1st Brigade, 25th Infantry Division (Stryker Brigade Combat Team) detained 18 suspected terrorists, seized weapons with the help of Iraqi civilians, and uncovered a weapons cache during operations in northern Iraq June 4.

Two Iraqi boys turned over hand grenades to Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment while they were patrolling in southern Mosul. Troops from 1st Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 2nd Iraqi Division Army alongside 2nd Battalion, 8th Field Artillery Regiment seized a weapons cache during a search operation south of Qayyarah. The weapons were confiscated for future destruction.

Troops from 1/3/2 Iraqi Army also detained 17 individuals suspected of terrorist activity during a cordon and

search operation south of Tal Afar. Soldiers from the 2-8th detained one individual suspected of terrorist activity during a cordon and search operation south of Qayyarah. Suspects are in custody. (Task Force Freedom Public Affairs)

Iraqi Police save kidnap victim

BAGHDAD – Iraqi Police thwarted a possible kidnapping June 6 after an Iraqi Army unit sent a patrol to the home of a prominent doctor in response to a report that the home was surrounded by an unknown number of assailants.

When the patrol arrived around 11:30 p.m., they found Iraqi police officers on the scene and in control of the situation. The officers had responded to sounds of gunfire and found four suspects firing on the doctor's house.

The doctor, who works for the Ministry of Defense, had fled out the back door when he noticed the terrorists approaching. The terrorists were attempting to kidnap the doctor and his family, authorities said.

The police shot and wounded one suspect during a gun battle that

ended with all four suspects being detained by the Iraqi Army. The doctor and his family were evacuated to safety by the Iraqi Army. (Task Force Baghdad Public Affairs)

Citizens continue to aid Iraqi forces

BAGHDAD – Iraqi Security Forces continue to receive valuable assistance from local citizens in the fight against insurgent violence, as demonstrated by two separate incidents on June 5.

An Iraqi citizen reported seeing a white Toyota pickup truck drop two sacks in a field. The citizen went to investigate the contents of the bags and found 37 Iraqi hand grenades, 101 Bulgarian grenade fuses, two Spanish artillery fuses, two French 130 mm artillery proximity fuses, and one heavy machine gun. The citizen transported the cache to Camp Justice and turned it over to soldiers at the gate.

Elsewhere, Iraqi soldiers with the 1st Brigade, 3rd Iraqi Army Division, acting on a tip from a civilian, uncovered a weapons cache south of Q-West. The cache consisted of 20 122 mm rockets.

Looking back

One year ago in Iraq

BAGHDAD, Iraq - Iraq's interim prime minister, Iyad Allawi, June 10, 2004, said Iraq has lost hundreds of millions of dollars in revenues, had significant disruption in electrical service and seen serious environmental damage because of insurgent attacks on the country's oil infrastructure.

His remarks came a day after guerrillas detonated an improvised explosive device at the main Kirkuk-Turkey oil pipeline. It was the fourth such attack at oil pipelines in three days.

"With nearly 20 days until Iraq emerges as a free sovereign state for the first time in more than three decades, terrorists have increasingly targeted our country's infrastructure," said Allawi, addressing reporters in both Arabic and English.

Iraqi Security Forces / In Brief

Iraqi soldiers capture foreign suspects

BAGHDAD — Iraqi soldiers from the 4th Battalion, 1st Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division arrested four foreign terror suspects during an early morning cordon and search operation in central Baghdad June 5.

The four detainees are thought to be involved with conducting terrorist activities in the Ameriyah district of the capital.

In another operation, Iraqi Security Forces from the 2nd Public Order Battalion raided a terrorist safe-house in east Baghdad, arresting seven suspects.

Iraqi forces searching the house found four AK-47 assault rifles, four sets of body armor, machine gun rounds, numerous radios and license plates and pictures of terrorists holding weapons. Seven suspects were taken into custody for questioning.

U.S. Army Capt. Stuart West commander of B Company, 3rd Battalion, 156th Infantry Regiment, 256th Brigade Combat Team, said the success of the 4/1/6 Iraqi Army was due to their own intelligence gathering, as well as the combined effort from Coalition forces.

This particular mission was a follow up to information gathered in earlier raids conducted by the Iraqi Soldiers. The 3-156th assisted in several previous efforts as well.

Elsewhere, Task Force Baghdad Soldiers on patrol in central Baghdad stopped two Iraqi vehicles at around 2 a.m. When they searched the vehicles, the Soldiers found four AK-47 assault rifles with ammunition, three submachine guns, one pistol, a bulletproof vest and three ski masks. The unit detained all five suspects in both cars.

Later, a sniper team saw two suspicious men tying something to a guard rail in the median of a major highway in central Baghdad. The snipers opened fire, killing one terrorist and wounding the other. Iraqi Police cordoned off the area until an explosives team arrived on the scene. (Task Force Baghdad Public Affairs)

Iraqi Army seizes weapons cache

AL ALI — A raid by Iraqi Army soldiers resulted in the discovery of two 90mm tank rounds, three 107mm rockets, two 122 mm artillery rounds, 13 Katusha PG-9 rockets and four Katusha rocket boosters. Information from an informant prompted the raid. An informant also provided information that led to the site of the launch point of a recent rocket attack on FOB Normandy. (Task Force Liberty Public Affairs)

Iraqi Army and police team up for operation

BAQUBAH — Soldiers from the Iraqi army's 2nd Brigade teamed with police to conduct Operation Mudahma June 9 to clear the location of the future Tahrir neighborhood police station. The combined force planned, coordinated and executed the operation, which successfully cleared the area, allowed the positioning of the station's protective barriers and detained three targeted individuals. (Task Force Liberty Public Affairs)

1st Division IIF battles IEDs

TAJI — Soldiers with the 1st Division Iraqi Intervention Force experienced two IED detonations and discovered and cleared another five IEDs during cordon and search operations June 3. Three 1st Brigade soldiers were slightly wounded in one of the attacks. One IED was found inside the carcass of a dead sheep.

In all, 14 people were detained during the IIF operations. In addition, four bodies were discovered in a canal, partly submerged in an automobile.

Iraqi Army recovers stolen artifacts

BAGHDAD — Iraqi Army soldiers conducted a raid designed to capture known anti-Iraq forces June 3.

Soldiers with 1st Brigade, 1st Iraqi Intervention Force secured their objective and found stolen communica-

tion devices, counterfeiting machines, and 31 artifacts stolen from the Baghdad Museum. Five suspected AIF members were detained for further questioning.

Iraqi Security Forces clear two IEDs

BAQUBAH — Iraqi military and police units located two improvised explosive devices June 3.

Soldiers with 2nd Brigade, 5th Iraqi Army Division found one 125 mm artillery round and one 155 mm artillery round with a remote detonating device.

The Iraqi police secured the area and found a device consisting of TNT and sparkplugs after receiving a report of a suspected IED.

Iraqi explosive ordnance disposal teams cleared both IEDs. Elsewhere, Task Force 506 soldiers cleared two IEDs near Habbaniyah.

Police rescue kidnapping victim

BAGHDAD — Iraqi police raided a local residence June 5 as part of an investigation into an alleged kidnapping.

Police from the Al Sha'ab Police Station collected information on the suspected kidnapping, which led them to a residence in the area. Police secured the perimeter of the home and initiated a search of the premises. The victim was found unharmed inside.

Police then began watching the residence and later arrested four unidentified suspects, who are being held for questioning.

Iraqi Army unit rescues woman

HAWIJA — An Iraqi Army unit responded to reports of a kidnapping by organizing a hasty raid on a building June 6.

Soldiers with the 2nd Brigade, 4th Iraqi Army Division found a female victim inside. The woman suffered a gunshot wound to the leg during the raid, which resulted in two suspects being detained.

Iraqi Security Forces / In Brief

Iraqi soldiers repel car bomber in Tikrit
TIKRIT – Iraqi Army soldiers on guard duty outside Camp Danger opened fire on a vehicle traveling at high speed attempting to breach the perimeter June 6.

The soldiers identified the threat and engaged the vehicle with small arms fire. The gunfire caused the vehicle-borne explosive device to detonate before it reached the compound. Two soldiers and one Iraqi child sustained minor injuries during the attack.

Iraqi SWAT team captures 11 AIF
SUWARIYAH – An Iraqi police special weapons and tactics team launched a raid against suspected anti-Iraq forces June 7.

The SWAT team officers engaged the AIF with small arms fire killing one suspect and capturing 11.

Female hostage freed after raid
MOSUL – Iraqi Army soldiers rescued a local television journalist who had been kidnapped by anti-Iraq forces after raiding a building suspected of sheltering the AIF members.

Acting on an anonymous tip, Iraqi military officials diverted the soldiers from a patrol they were on to the building. As they entered, soldiers with the 3rd Brigade, 3rd Division Iraqi Intervention Force were hit with small arms fire. One soldier was

wounded in the brief exchange. Shortly thereafter, soldiers secured the building and discovered the kidnapped woman. She appeared slightly beaten, but otherwise uninjured.

Soldiers also found two AK-47 automatic rifles, four grenades, one flack vest, one Motorola radio, and a receipt detailing a vehicle purchase in Syria. No AIF were found inside.

A search of the area located a suspected AIF with superficial wounds on the head. The suspect was detained and later identified by the female victim.

Iraqi child leads IIF soldiers to cache
MOSUL – A child approached Iraqi soldiers as they investigated the site of an ambush June 8 and led them to a small weapons cache.

Soldiers with the 2nd Brigade, 3rd Division Iraqi Intervention Force followed the child to a nearby location, where they found two rocket-propelled grenades, one RPG launcher, and two hand grenades.

Iraqi Police graduate 122 from courses
BAGHDAD – The Iraqi Police Service graduated 122 police from advanced and specialty courses at the Adnan Training Facility June 9, as part of the Iraqi government's ongoing effort to train its security forces.

The courses consist of Basic Criminal Investigations with 51 graduates, Critical Incident Management with 28 graduates, Violent Crimes Investiga-

tions with 29 graduates and Mid-Level Management, 14 graduates.

The Basic Criminal Investigation course covers topics such as theft, burglary, arson, robbery, sexual offenses, and homicide investigation. Participants also receive instruction and hands-on training in fingerprinting, photography, tool marks and plaster casting techniques. To date, 1,812 police officers have previously completed the Basic Criminal Investigations course.

Critical Incident Management is designed to provide participants with the understanding of and application skills for managing critical incidents. To date, 321 students previously graduated this course.

The Violent Crime Investigation course introduces participants to investigative techniques to be used in a variety of situations, but particularly in violent crimes against persons in cases such as armed robbery, rape and murder. To date, 312 students have graduated from this course.

Mid-Level Management is a course designed for supervisors who are responsible for managing the first line supervisors and their assigned personnel. To date, 306 students have graduated from this course.

Officers who participated in these courses previously completed either an eight-week basic training course for new recruits or a three-week 'transitional integration program' course designed for prior-service officers.

The police officers report back for continued duty at their respective stations immediately.

Iraqi equipment roll-up

A look at some of the equipment delivered to the Iraqi Security Forces this week

Ammunition.....	1.1 million rounds	Body armor.....	2,657
AK-47s.....	1,615	Grenades.....	4,000
Handguns.....	5,094	UAZ Jeeps.....	6